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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Donald R. Peterson et al.

Group Art Unit:

2172

Serial No.:

09/784,392

E.

Filed:

February 15, 2001

Examiner:

Chongshan Chen

For:

OPTIMIZED END

Atty. Dkt. No.:

9417 (NCR.0026US)

TRANSACTION PROCESSING

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Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JAN 2 7 2004

Technology Center 2100

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 21, 2003

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 21, 2003, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

Date of Deposit: January 20, 2004

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States

correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commission for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,

VA 22313

Dawn L. Thomas